

stick you can use to get Congress to move? Are you willing to say, for example, that you would veto Commerce-Justice if it doesn't have the protections you're looking for?

**The President.** Well, I believe that we will get some action this year, and I wouldn't rule anything in or out. But I don't want to get into the tactics now, except to say that—keep in mind there is a budget—there is a bill in conference, and one of them is pretty good, and one of them is not. We've got to try to get the best bill we can out of conference. And I just hope that everyone will weigh in and try to get this done. It's very important to the future.

**Q.** You did seem to indicate in your speech inside that this should be an election issue.

**The President.** Oh, I do believe that. I think the issue of—not this terrible tragedy, but the issue of gun safety, I think, definitely should be. We ought to make a decision as a people. That's why we have these elections. And we can do that, you see, without any name-calling or anything. People can just state what their positions are and why, and the American people can make their judgments. But I do think, to me, it ought to be one of the big goals of our country to make America the safest big country in the world, and therefore, is a proper subject of debate in this election. It's nothing but an issue, so there's no need for name-calling or anger or anything else. People should just state what they feel should be done, and the American people can make up their mind who is right.

Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 2:48 p.m. at a private residence. In his remarks, he referred to 6-year-old Kayla Rolland, who was shot and mortally wounded by a 6-year-old classmate in Mount Morris Township, MI. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

## **Statement on the Establishment of the President's Council on the Future of Princeville, North Carolina**

*February 29, 2000*

As the first city in the United States founded by former slaves, Princeville, North Carolina, holds a special and highly significant place in our Nation's history. In its early days, Princeville was called Freedom Hill by fleeing African-Americans who settled along the banks of the River Tar under the protection of Union troops at the close of the Civil War. In more recent times, repeated flooding from the River Tar has caused damage in Princeville which was devastated this fall by the particularly severe floods that accompanied Hurricane Floyd.

Today I am announcing the creation, by Executive order, of the President's Council on the Future of Princeville, North Carolina. This Council will bring together representatives from 12 Federal agencies, several key members of my Cabinet, and chaired by Sally Katzen of the Office of Management and Budget. It will work with elected officials, the private sector, community and non-profit groups to recommend measures to preserve and protect Princeville for the future. I have asked the Council to move promptly to recommend action that my administration can take to help repair and rebuild Princeville and, to the extent possible, protect the town from future floods.

We have taken many steps since this terrible flooding hit Princeville last fall, from immediately dispatching emergency workers to making resources available for the people of Princeville in their efforts to rebuild. It is my firm belief and the policy of my administration that we must do more to help the people of Princeville who have bravely chosen to stay and rebuild their badly damaged hometown. We owe them our best efforts.

It is enormously important that, as we celebrate Black History Month and honor the

long and proud history of this uniquely important town, we also take steps to preserve it for the future. As we embark on this new chapter in Princeville's history, I would like to thank Representative Eva Clayton who has led the charge for this step I am announcing today, and who has worked tirelessly on behalf of this important town. I also thank Representative Charles Rangel for his support of this important effort.

**Executive Order 13146—President's Council on the Future of Princeville, North Carolina**

*February 29, 2000*

By the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America, and in order to develop recommendations for Federal agency actions to address the future of Princeville, North Carolina, it is hereby ordered as follows:

**Section 1. Policy.** Princeville, North Carolina (Princeville) has a unique place in American history. This small city in eastern North Carolina was the first city in the United States founded by ex-slaves. In its history, Princeville has been damaged by floods many times. Recently, it was devastated by floods caused by Hurricane Floyd. In response to the damage, appropriate Federal agencies have already begun repair and recovery efforts to assist Princeville. However, it is the policy of this Administration to do more to help this city that occupies such a significant place in our history. Therefore, this order will create an interagency council to develop recommendations for further actions to address the future of Princeville.

**Sec. 2. Establishment.** (a) There is established the "President's Council on the Future of Princeville, North Carolina" (Council). The Council shall comprise the Secretaries of Defense, Agriculture, Commerce, Labor, Health and Human Services, Housing and Urban Development, Transportation, the Director of the Office of Management and Budget (OMB), the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, the Commander of the Army Corps of Engineers, the Administrator of the Small Business Admin-

istration, the Director of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, the Assistant to the President for Domestic Policy, the Assistant to the President for Economic Policy, and the Assistant to the President for Intergovernmental Affairs, or their designees, and such other executive department and agency (agencies) representatives as the President may deem appropriate. The Council shall consult with other agencies and State and local governments, as appropriate.

(b) The Director of the Office of Management and Budget, or his designee, shall serve as Chair of the Council.

**Sec. 3. Functions.** The Council shall develop recommendations for the President on further agency and legislative actions that can be undertaken to address the future of Princeville. In developing the recommendations, the Council shall consider, among other things: (a) the unique historic and cultural importance of Princeville in American history; (b) the views and recommendations of the relevant State and local governments, the private sector, citizens, community groups, and non-profit organizations, on actions that they all could take to enhance the future of Princeville and its citizens; and (c) agency assessments and recommendations to repair and rebuild Princeville, and, to the extent practicable, protect Princeville from future floods. The Council, through its Chair, shall submit its recommendations to the President. Where appropriate, the Council's recommendations shall include draft legislation requesting additional funding or other authorities to aid in the reconstruction and protection of Princeville.

**Sec. 4. Coordination.** At the request of the Chair, agencies shall cooperate with and provide information to the Council.

**Sec. 5. Judicial Review.** This order is not intended to, nor does it create, any right or benefit, substantive or procedural, enforceable at law by a party against the United States, its agencies, its officers or employees, or any other person.

**William J. Clinton**

The White House,  
February 29, 2000.

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